

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SAM-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03

H-01 INR-05 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 IO-10 SAB-01 OMB-01 ACDA-05 /083 W

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R 251416Z NOV 74

FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4703

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEL AVIV 6808

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, IS

SUBJ: ISRAELI DOMESTIC POLITICS--DEBATE CONTINUES ON NATIONAL
EMERGENCY GOVERNMENT

REF: TEL AVIV 6772

1. SUMMARY. IN LAST FEW DAYS, ADVOCATES AND OPPONENTS
OF NATIONAL EMERGENCY GOVERNMENT HAVE CONTINUED THEIR
RESPECTIVE MEDIA CAMPAIGNS TO MAKE THEIR CASE AND TRY TO
PERSUADE PRIME MINISTER RABIN TO EXPRESS HIMSELF OPENLY
ON ISSUE. RABIN REPORTEDLY INCLINED TO POSTPONE LABOR PARTY
CENTRAL COMMITTEE DEBATE, AND AVOID EARLY DECISION. END
SUMMARY.

2. INFORMATION MINISTER YARIV, IN NOVEMBER 23 TELEVISION
INTERVIEW, REPEATED HIS LONGSTANDING SUPPORT FOR FORMATION
OF ENLARGED COALITION. YARIV SAID, "I WHOLEHEARTEDLY SUPPORT,
SINCE THE YOM KIPPUR WAR AND EVEN MORE TODAY, THE ESTABLISHMENT
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OF A NATIONAL EMERGENCY GOVERNMENT, AND I SHALL DO ALL I CAN

(INSOFAR AS I POSSESS ANY INFLUENCE) TO ACHIEVE THIS END.
I WANT TO EXPRESS THE HOPE THAT SUCH A GOVERNMENT WILL
INDEED BE FORMED, AND NOT AT SOME DISTANT DATE".

3. INDEPENDENT LIBERAL PARTY (ILP) DELEGATION IS MEETING TODAY
WITH PRIME MINISTER TO PRESENT RESOLUTION ADOPTED NOVEMBER
21 IN FAVOR OF ENLARGED COALITION (TEL AVIV 6773), WHILE
NATIONAL RELIGIOUS PARTY (NRP) DELEGATION PLANS TO MEET
PRESIDENT KATZIR NOVEMBER 27, AS WELL AS TO REPEAT ITS
WELL-KNOWN ARGUMENTS DIRECTLY TO LABOR PARTY LEADERSHIP
LATER THIS WEEK.

4. LIKUD LEADER BEGIN, ON ISRAEL TV NOVEMBER 22, SAID
THAT MAJORITY OF LABOR ALIGNMENT WAS NOT YET READY FOR UNITY
GOVERNMENT. BEGIN DESCRIBED BASIS FOR FORMING SUCH
A GOVERNMENT AS NONCOMPULSION, WITH NEITHER SIDE COMPELLING
THE OTHER TO ACCEPT A PRINCIPLE IT DOES NOT HOLD. ADDRESSING
LIBERAL PARTY (LIKUD) GROUP NOVEMBER 24, ARIK SHARON
ATTACKED MAPAM LEADERS FOR SAYING THAT LIKUD PARTICIPATION
IN GOVERNMENT WOULD CLOSE OPTIONS TO PEACE, NOTING THAT GOI
POSITION AGAINST WITHDRAWAL FROM GOLAN HEIGHTS,
JERUSALEM AND SHARM-EL-SHEIKH ITSELF CLOSED NEGOTIATING
OPTIONS.

5. OPPONENTS OF NATIONAL EMERGENCY GOVERNMENT ALSO PRESSED
THEIR CASE OVER WEEKEND. EDITORIALS IN HAARETZ AND DAVAR
NOVEMBER 25 COME OUT STRONGLY AGAINST ENLARGED COALITION.
HAARETZ ALSO FRONTPAGES VIEW OF UNIDENTIFIED LABOR PARTY SOURCE
CLAIMING THAT RABIN IS AGAINST UNITY GOVERNMENT, AND
THAT YARIV'S PERSONAL STAND DID NOT REFLECT VIEW OF LABOR PARTY
MAJORITY. SAME SOURCE CLAIMS THAT PRIME MINISTER IS
POSTPONING DEBATE IN LABOR PARTY CENTRAL COMMITTEE ON ISSUE
IN ORDER NOT TO COME OUT OPENLY AT THIS TIME AGAINST UNITY
GOVERNMENT.

6. COMMENT: AMIDST ALL THIS SOUND AND FUROR, OUR ASSESSMENT
REFTEL REMAINS UNCHANGED: CONSTRAINTS AGAINST ENLARGING
GOVERNMENT ARE PRESENTLY GREATER THAN INCENTIVES.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, POLITICAL SITUATION, EMERGENCY PLANNING, CENTRAL GOVERNMENT, NEGOTIATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 25 NOV 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: MorefiRH
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974TELAV06808
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740341-0906
From: TEL AVIV
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19741113/aaaaalbd.tel
Line Count: 99
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: TEL AVIV 6772
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: MorefiRH
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 27 JUN 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <27 JUN 2002 by boyleja>; APPROVED <20-Nov-2002 by MorefiRH>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ISRAELI DOMESTIC POLITICS--DEBATE CONTINUES ON NATIONAL EMERGENCY GOVERNMENT
TAGS: PINT, IS, (YARIV)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005